

trade." And in Toronto, June 13th, 1896 he said: "I agree with Sir Charles Tupper in regard to preferential trade. This is a new idea, but one which in itself is fraught with greatness not only for the Canadian people but for the British Empire at large. (Hear, hear and cheers.) Repudiation of this pledge followed and now we have Mr. Maxwell boasting as follows: "The master-stroke of the Government was when it adopted a preferential tariff towards the Mother Country. Now this whole question of preference was an accident of accidents; it was never intended and the Liberals 'did not know it was loaded.' They had weakly abandoned the policy of a preferential tariff between Canada and Britain, on which there had been no difference of opinion between the parties. The Liberals had abandoned their promised policy of sending a commission to England, to seek a basis of reciprocal preferential tariff, when they found they could not get it. Something far different had been substituted—according to Sir Wilfrid's grandiloquent words, they had given something to England without any return. Now he did not think that was preferential policy, to give to the rich manufacturers of Manchester and Birmingham the preference over the manufacturers of the Dominion. And even their boasted preferential policy had not originally been of the patriotic nature they would like to make believe now—it had included all nations that gave the same concessions to Canada. This was the tariff provision of 1897: "That when the customs tariff of any country admits the products of Canada on terms which, on the whole, are as favorable to Canada as the terms of the reciprocal tariff herein referred to, are to the countries to which it may apply, articles which are the growth, produce or manufacture of such country, when imported direct therefrom, may then be imported direct into Canada, or taken out of warehouse for consumption therein, at the reduced rates of duty provided in the reciprocal tariff set forth in schedule D."

#### MR. FIELDING'S TESTIMONY.

It will be seen that the preference was given, not to Great Britain nor to the British Empire, but to all countries that could qualify by their own tariff. In his budget speech introducing the measure Mr. Fielding said: (Hansard 1897, page 1131.) "We do not by our resolution offer anything to Great Britain alone. We recognize the fact that Great Britain by her liberal policy is in a position to avail herself of this offer immediately, but we make our offer not to Great Britain only, but to every nation

that is prepared to accept it. We make it to every country that is willing to establish fair and reasonable trade relations with Canada."

In the same session speaking on the same question, Sir Louis Davies at the close of an elaborate legal argument on the question said, after reading the tariff clause: (Hansard, 1897, page 2874.) "There is no differential rates of duty proposed there. There is no preferential rates of duty enacted there in favor of any one country withheld from another. All trading countries are placed on the same footing by that resolution. I say that this resolution neither discriminates nor differentiates. It attaches no terms which are not common to Great Britain and to all countries."

#### KIPLING SAW THE POINT.

It was in recognition of the fact that the Fielding tariff gave no preference to Great Britain, but held out equal terms to all countries that the poem, *Our Lady of the Snows*, was written by Rudyard Kipling. His idea of the main feature of this measure is given in the couplet:

" 'I favour those who favour me,'  
Said Our Lady of the Snows."

The whole legal argument on the question of the Belgian and German treaties was based on the fact that Canada did not favor Great Britain, but only favored those countries, British and foreign whose tariff might favor Canada.

Mr. Maxwell said: "The leader of that party told the House that this legislation was unconstitutional. Just think of a reasonable and rational man standing up before the first assembly in Canada and telling Canada's statesmen that it was unconstitutional to give a preference in our markets to the mother of us all! Why the statement is rank humbug." The advice of the leader was right. Bungle succeeded bungle. First of all these countries got the preference, as well as Great Britain under the Fielding tariff of 1897: (Hansard, 1898, page 3142.) Belgium, Germany, France, Netherlands, Austria-Hungary, Denmark, Russia, Sweden and Norway, Switzerland, Spain, Japan, Persia, Algiers, French Colonies, Tunis, Liberia, Morocco, Transvaal, Argentine, Bolivia, Colombia, Venezuela and Salvador. After the Government was put right it caught, in its desperation, preference for Great Britain and a few British colonies. Mr. Maxwell tells us (World, Dec. 15th, 1898) "He had gone to Ottawa as an Independent and had voted as his conscience dictated." In this pamphlet of 1900 we read: "As a son of labor and an old trade unionist I dedicate this little effort." All that he (Sir Hibbert) could say was that